

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12925 231733Z

41

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 059975

O 231640Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7313

S E C R E T CAIRO 12925

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US LE EG

SUBJ: MESSAGE TO FAHMY RE LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 234221

SUMMARY: I DELIVERED YOUR ORAL MESSAGE TO FAHMY THIS MORNING AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. FAHMY READ IT CAREFULLY AND THEN COMMENTED THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION. HE THEN REVIEWED AT SOME LENGTH THE EFFORTS EGYPT AND HE PERSONALLY HAD BEEN MAKING TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS. FAHMY URGES THAT PRESIDENT FORD SEND A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SARKIS OFFERING USG SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

1. AFTER READING YOUR ORAL MESSAGE AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR IT, FAHMY COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED THE CONTACTS EGYPT HAD BEEN HAVING WITH VARIOUS LEBANESE LEADERS INCLUDING SARKIS HAD PERHAPS BROUGHT ABOUT A TURNING POINT IN THE AREA. HE EXPECTS THAT SHORTLY AFTER GAIRAM FEAST IS OVER A SIX-POWER MINI-SUMMIT (EGYPT, SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, SARKIS AND ARAFAT) WILL TAKE PLACE; PERHAPS IF THAT IS SUCCESSFUL THERE WILL THEN BE A FULL ARAB SUMMIT IN CAIRO. THESE EVENTS AND CONTINUING EGYPTIAN CONTACTS ARE LIKELY TO PREVENT HIS GOING TO US, MUCH

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 12925 231733Z

AS HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND YOU.

2. EGYPTIAN CONTACTS WITH THE LEBANESE LEADERS OVER PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN CLARIFYING VARIOUS PARTIES' VIEWS. AS RESULT LEBANESE LEADERS, EVEN INCLUDING PIERRE GEMAYEL, SUPPORT EGYPTIAN EFFORTS. SARKIS MEETING WITH SADAT WAS LENGTHY AND VERY GOOD . FOR OUR OWN PRIVATE INFORMATION SARKIS ASKED SASAT FOR "POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT" AND SADAT HAD AGREED TO GRANT IT. EGYPT HAS CONTINUED IN CONTACT WITH SARKIS SINCE HIS DEPARTURE. IN ADDITION, JUMBLATT AND EDDE WOULD BE COMING FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS.

3. FAHMY INFORMED ME THAT APRESIDENT SADAT HAD RECEIVED CARTE BLANCHE FROM ARAFAT UNDER WHICH ARAFAT WOULD AGREE TO ANY EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL PROVIDED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT GUARANTEED IT. THIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN PASSED TO SARKIS WHEN HE WAS HERE.

4. THE MINI-SUMMIT, IF IT TAKES PLACE, IS TO DISCUSS ONLY LEBANON AND NOT SUCH MATTERS AS THE SINAI AGREEMENT. FAHMY HOPES FOR PROGRESS IN BRINGING AN ACCORD BETWEEN THE PARTIES. IF THIS AHPPENS, FAHMY WILL NOT TRY TO PORTRAY IT AS A VICTORY FOR EGYPT. THE SYRIANS HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSED BY FAHMY'S INITIATIVE AND THE SYRIAN PRESS HAS BEEN ARRYING NASTY EDITORIALS ABOUT SADAT'S REFERENDUM AND HAVE EVEN CLAIMED THAT EGYPT SABOTAGED THE CHTOURA MEETINGS IN ADVANCE BY WHAT IT TOLD LEBANESE LEADERS. FAHMY SAID THIS WAS OF COURSE NOT TRUE AND SYRIANS HAD IN FACT CAUSED BREAKDOWN OF THESE TALKS BY INSISTING UPON PALESTINAINA WITHDRAWAL FROM THEMETN AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY SYRIAN FORCES. PALESTINIANS HAD BEEN WILLING TO WITHDRAW ON CONDITION THAT AREA BE TAKEN OVER BY CHRISTIAN OR ARAB LEAGUE FORCES, BUT NOT SYRIANS. THERE HAD ALSO BEEN MORE FUNDAMENTAL DIS-AGREEMENTS AT CHTOURA, THOUGH HE DID NOT GO INTO THEM.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ARAB LEAGUE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 12925 231733Z

FORCES IN LEBANON, FAHMY REPLIED THAT EGYPT HAD BEEN ASKED TO SUPPLY TROOPS BY MANY OF THE PARTIES, EVEN INCLUDING SYRIANS, BUT HE DID NOT INTEND TO AGREE TO THIS REQUEST.

6. PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. WITH REGARD TO WHAT USG COULD DO TO HELP IN LEBANON SITUATION, FAHMY URGED THAT PRESIDENT FORD SEND MESSAGE TO SARKIS TO

SHOW THAE US IS READY TO HELP. MESSAGE SHOULD ENDORSE SARKIS' ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY, URGE CONCILLIATION AMONG THE PARTIES, AND SHOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE MINI-SUMMIT MEETING TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS. FAHMY (FORMING IN HIS OWN MIND MESSAGE WE SHOULD SEND) CONTINUED THAT IT SHOULD NOT CONTAIN OFFER TO SEND MILITARY CONTINGENTS BUT SHOULD PROMISE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LEBANON. MESSAGE ALSO SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE TO PALESTINIANS, AS THIS WOULD CERTAINLY LEAK. MESSAGE HE HAD IN MIND SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED BUT FACT OF IT HAVING BEEN SENT SHOULD BE LEAKED WITHOUT GIVING ITS SUBSTANCE, EXCEPT THAT IT SUPPORTED SARKIS.

7. FINALLY, FAHMY SAID WE SHOULD SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, PERHAPS A RETURN BY AMBASSADOR SEELYE. HE FELT IT IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A SENIOR MAN IN BEIRUT, DESPITE THE ACKNOWLEDGED PERSONAL DANGERS.

8. COMMENT: FAHMY WAS CALM AND REFLECTIVE DURING THE ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING, WHICH ALSO COVERED OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTED SEPTELS. WHILE HE STILL HOPES THAT HIS CONTINUING ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN FIGURES WILL PRODUCE AN EGYPTIAN RSOLUTION IN LEBANON, I THOUGHT HE SEEMED RELATIVELY LESS CONFIDENT THAN AT OUR LAST MEETING ON THE SUBJECT. HE STILL DENIGRATES SYRIAN INFLUENCE AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF BEING WILLING TO ALLOW A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA.

9. WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT EGYPT'S INSISTENCE ON PARTICPATION BY SARKIS AND ARAFAT HAS FOR TIME BEING DELAYED CONVENING OF MINI-SUMMIT, SINCE SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT WANT TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 CAIRO 12925 231733Z

START WITH A FOUR -POWER SUMMIT WHICH COULD LATER BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ARAFAT AND SARKIS.

10. I WAS STRUCK BY FACT THAT FAHMY DID NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT US ROLE IN LEBANON AND OUR ALLEGED

COLLUSION WITH SYRIA AND ISRAELIS, AS HE HAS TO AMBASSADOR EILTS IN THE PAST. I THINK YOUR MESSAGE LED HIM INTO MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THINKING ABOUT HOW USG COULD BE HELPFUL.
MATTHEWS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CONCILIATION, MEETING REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO12925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850107-1678, N760007-0243
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760929/aaaaayrc.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 234221
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO FAHMY RE LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF, EG, LE, SY, US, PLO, (FAHMY, ISMAIL), (SARKIS, ELIAS), (ARAFAT, YASSER)
To: STATE SS SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006